

Species (a). The claims of Group I, species (a), are methods for enhancing the adjuvant effect of IL-12 by co-administering IL-12, a vaccine antigen, and a nitric oxide inhibiting and/or neutralizing agent. Claim 40 is directed to an adjuvant composition containing IL-12 and a nitric oxide inhibiting and/or neutralizing agent. Claim 41 is directed to a vaccine composition containing IL-12, a vaccine antigen, and a nitric oxide inhibiting or neutralizing agent.

Applicants submit that the inclusion of these compositions of Claims 40 and 41, which are clearly intended for use in the methods of claims 1-15, should not unduly extend the prior art search which focuses on methods for enhancing the adjuvant use of IL-12. Applicants appreciate the examiner's reconsideration of the restriction requirement in view of these remarks, and request that claims 40 and 41 be combined with the method claims of Group I, species (a).

Applicants acknowledge withdrawal of non-elected claims 16-39 and will cancel the non-elected claims upon an indication of allowable subject matter.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in any fee due with this paper to our deposit account number 08-3040.

Respectfully submitted,

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